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Attorney's Docket No. 5051-425

PATENT TECH CENTER 1600/2900

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re: Robertson
Serial No.: 09/281,528
Filed: March 30, 1999
For: *Method of suppressing gene expression in plants*

Examiner: S. Kaushal
Group Art Unit: 1636

November 26, 2002

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

AMENDMENT

Sir:

This is responsive to the final Office Action mailed June 26, 2002 regarding the above-referenced patent application. A Petition for Extension of Time and Declaration under 37 C.F.R. § 1.132 are enclosed. Please amend the application as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows. An Appendix entitled "Marked-up Version Showing Changes Made" is attached hereto.

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1. (Thrice Amended) A geminivirus silencing vector comprising a geminivirus genome comprising:
the geminivirus AL1, AL2 and AL3 coding sequences,
heterologous DNA, said heterologous DNA comprising at least a fragment of a gene endogenous to a plant that occurs naturally in the plant genome,
wherein said heterologous DNA is constitutively expressed and said AL1, AL2 and AL3 coding sequences are bidirectionally transcribed from said geminivirus silencing vector, and
wherein said geminivirus silencing vector silences expression of the endogenous plant gene upon introduction into a plant cell.